

SGNA News

Spring 2005

A newsletter for San Gabriel Neighborhood Association Members & Residents

The New Neighborhood Year!

New San Gabriel Neighborhood Association officers were elected at the March 21, 2005 meeting. The new board members are:

President	Kirk Critton	KirkCritton@Hotmail.com	324-0189
Vice President	Scott O'Mack	somack@srircrm.com	319-5549
Secretary	Julia Rosen	ouears@cox.net	319-0470
Treasurer	Edgar Schrock	artoday@excite.com	881-7403

The main function of this year's officers will be to give & reinforce information. It is important for all residents to have useful phone numbers, contacts, websites, & email addresses for people, groups, or organizations who can assist in neighborhood concerns. We will be producing more newsletters throughout this next year to disseminate this information & to give helpful ideas on possible problem solutions.

Contact Kirk Critton at 324-0289 or KirkCritton@Hotmail.com with any input of ideas or concerns regarding our neighborhood.

Much thanks goes to Edgar Schrock for his brilliant work as the SGNA President throughout the past 3½ years. Edgar's work literally kept SGNA alive! Edgar has been generous, patient, highly professional, & a dedicated leader.

Weed Watch

Weeds are a concern every spring, but abundant rains this past winter have given us a bumper crop. To keep our neighborhood looking its best, & to comply with city codes, we all need to practice weed control in our yards & along adjoining sidewalks & easements. It's not just a matter of aesthetics: weeds become a fire hazard when the warm days of spring & summer dry them out.

To control weeds, use mechanical or chemical methods, or both. If you're averse to using herbicides (and there are good reasons to be), nothing beats old-fashioned hoeing & pulling. Hoeing is especially effective when weeds are small; pulling works best on larger weeds & when the soil is moist. A rotary weed cutter (or "weed whacker") is the quickest way to deal with a large area, but it can create a lot of dust in dry conditions & actually helps disperse weed seeds. Ideally, hoe or pull weeds before they flower & develop seeds. Always dispose of weeds in the trash or a compost pile rather than leaving them on the ground where any seeds will germinate the next year.

If an herbicide is your only feasible option, use it sparingly & always according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Natural herbicides can also be effective: a spray of straight white vinegar will kill many weeds when they're small. & remember that not every plant that volunteers in your yard is a noxious weed: many native species are harmless, easily contained, & a pleasure to look at. For concerns about properties with overgrown weeds, you can call the City of Tucson at 791-3171. For more information on weed control with herbicides, see the March 20 article by John Begeman in the *Arizona Daily Star* <http://www.dailystar.com/dailystar/home/65785.php>).

If you are interested in native wildflowers in the city, including the small inconspicuous kinds, & other native plant gardening you may contact Phil Rosen at 319-0470 or email pcrosen@cox.net for information, identification etc. Here's a site that offers a picture tour of Tucson's wildflowers: <http://www.fireflyforest.com/flowers/index.html>

Join the Neighborhood Email List & view the SGNA Website

Some neighborhood members have an informal email list. It is used for passing on information from the city (like notices of public meetings,) for neighbors to organize social events, warn about lost pets -- & we let each other know about safety issues like break-ins. It's as a good way to instantly communicate with the neighborhood. For an invitation to join the email list, email Nathanael at: Nathanael2@cox.net

SGNA also has a website that allows visitors to learn about neighborhood activities, including a neighborhood & citywide calendar that any resident may post notice of upcoming events. Visit the site at:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/tucson/sangabriel

Don't forget, the Columbus Library has free public use computers.

2004 in Review

In this last SGNA year, San Gabriel Park was dedicated, the mosaic artwork depicting historic neighborhood stories was installed & two park cleanups were held. Neighbors enjoyed a December holiday potluck & two newsletters were published.

Jet Noise

March's meeting included discussion of possible impact on our neighborhood from increasing noise jet noise from Davis Monthan. If you would like more information, please visit Tucsonans for Sound Solutions website: <http://www.tucsound.com/>

Fite the Bite!

West Nile Hotline 740-3191

Outdoor events don't have to be canceled this summer to avoid mosquitoes. By taking personal precautions & controlling mosquito breeding you can reduce your risk of contracting the West Nile Virus.

Join the SWAT Team:

Here are some things you can do to reduce being bitten by a mosquito:

- ✓ Limit time outdoors from dusk to dawn
- ✓ Use mosquito repellents that contain DEET
- ✓ Wear lightweight, loose-fitting long sleeve shirts & pants whenever possible
- ✓ Check the screening on your windows & doors

Don't be a "Mosquito Farmer"

You can help to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites in you yard & neighborhoods. The closer to your home that mosquitoes breed, the more at risk you & your family are of being bit.

Pour out or remove standing water in flowerpots, gutters, puddles, buckets & watering cans. Check gardening equipment & children's outside toys. Turn wading pools & wheelbarrows upside down when not in use. Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings to allow the water to drain. Cover rain barrels.

Throw out unneeded items that collect water in your yard like old tires. Cover trashcans.

Change out water 2-3 times a week in birdbaths, pet water dishes & livestock troughs. Check the ground underneath the drain line of your swamp coolers too.

Mosquito Dunks -You can purchase these pellets to place in rain barrels or other standing water like fountains you cannot eliminate. Dunks contain a harmless natural soil bacteria that kills mosquitoes at the "wiggler" stage before they can fly & bite you. They last for at least 30 days & work even if water dries up & refills many times. *Editor's note*

West Nile Basic Facts

The chance of getting sick from the West Nile Virus is low. Most people who are exposed to the West Nile Virus do not have any symptoms, or have a mild illness that goes away on its own in 3-6 days. Less than one out of 150 people who become ill with West Nile Virus will develop a more serious form of the infection called West Nile encephalitis, which will require hospitalization. Treatment is mostly supportive care. Currently there is no vaccine for humans.

Source: Pima County Health Dept. "Basic Facts to Help You Avoid the West Nile Virus" 2004 www.pimahealth.org

Arroyo Chico Drainage Improvement Project

Timrod will be under construction between Alvernon & Columbus from April 11 - Dec, 2005, (weather permitting). The Arroyo Chico underwater channel will expand to carry more storm water under-ground & reduce the potential for flooding to surrounding neighborhoods. When complete, over 400 homes will be removed from the 100-year flood plain! Construction for this phase will only be on Timrod. The Bryant portion will not occur this year. For questions on this project, or if you experience problems with utility service during construction, contact: The City of Tucson Field Rep. Alfredo Rosete: 791-5100 or Project Manager Fred Felix at 791-4146

Mail Theft

This last December at least two cases of mail theft were seen on Paseo Grande & reported to Tucson Police.

To keep your mail safer & prevent identity theft:

Pick up mail promptly, don't leave overnight

Use the post office or "blue mail box" when mailing bills. Never mail cash.

Ask your bank for "secure" checks that can't be altered.

Tell your post office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return. For on-line requests:

<https://dunsapp.usps.gov/HoldMail.jsp>

*Consider a locking mailbox.

*Keep a lookout for vehicles "trolling" the neighborhood, & report to Tucson Police

Dated Material

San Gabriel
Neighborhood

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